Declining trend in rain fall

4385. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whither there is a declining trend in rainfall due to damage caused to the ecology; and

(b) if so, what preve(ntive measures Goveiinme U propose to take to avoid the loss due to less rainfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and lb) Scientists have analysed long term rainfall series over various parts of the country and concluded that the short term fluctuations above normal and below normal rainfall are random in nature and do not reveal any, significant change in climate.

Project of Chilka Acquatic Farm Limited

4386. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHAN DRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 104 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the Project of Chilka Acquatic Farm Ltd., for prawn culture in Chilka brac kish water lagoon; and

(b) whitt are the conditions, laid down in the clearance order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY[r] OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

Conversion of land by the Wasteland Development Authority

4387. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is slow progres$_s$ in the conversion of lands by the Wasteland Development Board in (he country; and

(to) what is the total targeted land conversion by the Board and what is the achievement so far?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The National Wastelands Development Board is not concerned with conversion of land. The mandate of the Board is to guide and oversee the Wastelanls Development Programme aimed at checking land degradation and putting wastelands in the country to sustainable use, increasing biomass availability, specially fuelwood, fodder and forest produce, and restoring the ecological balance. The Board is also the nodal agency at the Central level to co-ordinate and monitor the afforestation) avid tree planting activitie$_s$ under the 20 Point Programme. During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), a total area of 8.8 million hectares was covered by these activities against a target of 8.6 m!ll'o:t hectares.

Achievement of first phase of, Ganga Action PIan

4388. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a con-trolversy about the achievement of the first phase of Ganga Action Plan and purity of its water, is going on at present, in the country;

(b) whether the promise of Late Prime iMi-iister Rajiv Gandhi that the Ganga will be free from pollution has been fulfilled;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) further steps contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINIST RY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) *to* (c) Ganga Action Plan was launched in 1986 for pollution abatement